

REMARKS

Claims 1 – 20 are presently pending. In the above-identified Office Action, Claims 6 – 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Claims 1, 5, 16 – 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Beaton *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,526,129). Claim 10 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Sussman (U.S. Patent No. 5,483,586). Claims 19 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Noto *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 4,885,580). Claims 2 – 4 and 6 – 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Beaton *et al.* in view of Noto *et al.* Claims 11 – 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sussman in view of Noto *et al.*

By this Amendment, Claims 1 – 20 have been canceled and new Claims 21 - 36 have been added to more clearly define the patentably distinct aspects of the present invention. Applicant respectfully submits that the present invention properly defines an invention patentable over the prior art. Reconsideration, allowance and passage to issue are therefore respectfully requested.

The present invention addresses the need in the art for a system or method for enabling a user to maintain a contact list that is not dependent upon portable hardware and for an organizational system that eases the finding of contact information and the process of communicating with the contact.

In the illustrative embodiment, the invention is a system and method for storing and retrieving contact information including an arrangement for storing information about a plurality contacts in groups, associating the contact information with group information using a code that includes group and contact number and automatically communicating with the contact by use of the code. The invention is set forth in claims of varying scope of which new Claim 21 is illustrative. Claim 21 recites:

21. A data storage and retrieval system comprising:
means for storing contact information by group;
means for associating said contact information with an associated
group **with a code that includes a group number and a contact
number and**
**means for automatically communicating with a contact by
entering said code.** (Emphasis added.)

None of the references, taken alone or in combination, teach, disclose or suggest the invention as presently claimed. That is, none of the references teach, disclose or suggest an arrangement for storing information about a plurality contacts in groups, associating the contact information with group information using a code that includes group and contact number and automatically communicating with the contact by use of the code.

In the above-identified Office Action, the Examiner relied primarily on Beaton *et al.* Beaton *et al.* purport to teach a system and method for communication media management with a system for consolidating access to communication media into a single, configurable interface accessible by callers. However, Beaton *et al.* do not teach, disclose or suggest an arrangement for storing information about a plurality contacts in groups, associating the contact information with group information using a code that includes group and contact number and automatically communicating with the contact by use of the code as presently claimed. The Examiner acknowledged that Beaton *et al.* do not teach using a group number. However, the Examiner suggested that this teaching is provided by Noto *et al.*

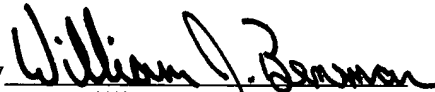
Noto *et al.* endeavor to teach a multi-function key input device with a touch panel as a key input means. The Examiner suggests that at col. 3, line 50 – col. 4, line 3 Noto *et al.* teach the use of group numbers and names to identify contact groups. However, neither Noto *et al.* nor any of the other references cited teach, disclose or suggest an arrangement for storing information about a plurality contacts in groups, associating the contact information with group information using a code that includes group and contact number and automatically communicating with the contact by use of the code as presently claimed.

Accordingly, reconsideration, allowance and passage to issue are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William J. Benman", written over a horizontal line.

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